

Appl. No. : 10/796,767
Filed : March 9, 2004

COMMENTS

Claim 19 remains pending in the present application, Claims 1-18 and 20-21 having been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In response to the Office Action mailed July 27, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments.

Claims 20 and 21 Fully Comply With The Requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, the Examiner indicating that the scope of these claims cannot be determined due to their respective dependencies. Applicant respectfully traverses the present rejection. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the present Application, Applicant has canceled Claims 20 and 21 without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, the present rejection is now moot. Applicant also expressly reserves the right to further prosecute the original versions of Claims 20 and 21 through continuation practice.

Japan '486 Does Not Anticipate Claims 1 -- 9 And 11 -- 18

Claims 1 -- 9 and 11 -- 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japan '486. Applicant respectfully traverses the present rejection. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the present Application, Applicant has canceled Claims 1-9 and 11-18 without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, the present rejection is now moot. Applicant also expressly reserves the right to further prosecute the original versions of Claims 1 -- 9 and 11-18 through continuation practice.

The Applied Combination of Japan'486/Takashima Does Not Make Claim 10 Obvious

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Japan'486 in view of Takashima. Applicant respectfully traverses the present rejection. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the present Application, Applicant has canceled Claim 10 without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, the present rejection is now moot. Applicant also expressly reserves the right to further prosecute the original versions of Claim 10 through continuation practice.

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CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: June 5, 2006

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